

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

December 3, 2012

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Important Dates

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| December 4 | Picture Retake Day Report Card Distribution |
| December 5 | Math - Unit 5 test |
| December 21 | Ethnic Fest |
| December 21 | Rocket into Reading Begins |
| Dec 24 - Jan 4 | Winter Break |

Dear Families,

A great big thanks to all of the families who so generously donated to our holiday gift basket program. As a Holmes School community, we collected over \$2,700. View an article about Holmes School's hand in the program at the following link: <http://oakpark.suntimes.com/16578834-781/holmes-students-open-hearts-wallets-for-others.html>

A big thank you goes to Ginger Yarrow and Wendy Senger who shopped for all of the items for the family assigned to 5th grade.

Additional gratitude goes to all of the parents who volunteered their time to chaperone the Outdoor Ed field trip last week. It was a memorable experience for all of the students, and it would not have been such a success without such attentive and caring volunteers. Thank you again for making the trip possible.

Elmwood Park Public Library is hosting a reading event on December 8th from 10:00am-12:00pm. The event will feature Illinois Children's Book Author, Sam DeMatteo. He will read and talk about his book, [The High-Tech Gooseneck Putter](#). There will be a chance to win a copy of his book. In addition to the story reading, each child will get to make 2 penguin-themed crafts – a great way to practice reading and following directions! Elmwood Park Public Library is located at 1 W.Conti Parkway. The event will take place upstairs in the storyroom. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

Art -[Dale Chihuly](#) is an American glass blower with colorful glass sculptures on display all over the world. We have looked carefully at his artwork and watched several videos on [glass blowing](#). Of course, we cannot blow glass, but we have found an exciting alternative. The results will be on display at Specials Night on 1/14.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. We will be working on the pieces for the specials night over the next few weeks.

Chorus-

Spanish - The fifth graders are working on finishing up their art and Spanish project. They will be recording their voices this week! Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - Congratulations to Luca C., Max G., and Dylan L.... this fall's Reading Olympics winners! It was a very close competition. Thank you to all the participants-- you did a truly amazing job. The spring competition is right around the corner, and I will be book talking these books in a few weeks. In the meantime, students will be working in small groups using CultureGrams to produce a final piece for the specials night. More about that next week! Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week, we will continue reading the book Rules by Cynthia Lord as a class. So far, some themes we have seen being developed are friendship, acceptance and courage. Students will also continue reading their own novels and identifying the themes they see being developed. There will be a quiz on Friday on chapters 5-8 of Rules.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week. Students also are revising their science research papers in class with a focus on ideas and organization. Over the next few weeks, students will continue to edit these papers with a goal of producing a polished, quality product.

Math

Today we worked on converting fractions to decimals to percents using a calculator. This brings us to the end of our unit and we will have a test on Wednesday. The test will cover equivalent fractions, converting between fractions and mixed numbers, ordering fractions and decimals, and converting between fractions, decimals and percents. At the end of the week, we will begin working on adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators.

Science

The energy unit tests will be handed back to students this week. In class, we will continue to work on the feasibility study to include a calculated return on investment on installing a wind turbine or solar panels to generate energy for our classroom. Students will give their recommendations on installing an alternative energy source. Students continue to work on revising their research papers. The final draft is due Friday, December 7.

Social Studies

This week we will begin our study of Colonial America with an introduction to the geography of the colonies. We will then move to examine the New England colonies in greater depth. Students will learn about how religion was at the center of Puritan government and how Puritans and American Indians fought over land in New England. Students will also learn about the economy in the New England colonies, including the Triangular Trade.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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